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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire  
393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 202-224-3324 [www.senate.gov/~gregg/](http://www.senate.gov/~gregg/)



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*July 2, 2003*

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## **SENATOR GREGG ANNOUNCES \$35,082 TO MERIDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded a \$35,082 federal grant to the Meriden Volunteer Fire Department. The funding, authorized through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, will be used to update the Meriden firefighters' airpack breathing apparatuses to ensure that they comply with code requirements. This year, the Department of Homeland Security will award over \$750 million in one-time grants to local fire departments through the program, a \$390 million increase over last year.

Senator Gregg stated, "These funds will allow the Meriden Fire Department to provide safe and reliable air equipment to the dedicated individuals who put their lives on the line for the people in their community. It is more important than ever that first responders like firefighters have the tools necessary to perform their duties in the safest and most efficient manner possible. Firefighters are a critical resource for New Hampshire cities and towns, and grants such as this help communities obtain the equipment and training necessary to maintain an effective fire department."

For more information, contact Chief David R. Best at (603) 469-3334.

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